



Department of Defense Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan

Fiscal Year 2010

Department of Defense Mission:
Protect the American people and
advance our nation's interests.

"Sustainability" and "sustainable" mean to create and maintain conditions, under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.

— *Executive Orders*
13423 & 13514

DoD and Climate Change

"Climate change will shape the operating environment, roles, and missions that we undertake. The Department is developing policies and plans to manage the effects of climate change on its operating environment, missions, and facilities."

— *DoD Quadrennial Defense Review, 2010*

For More Information

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DoD's first Department-wide sustainability plan lays out its goals and performance expectations for the next decade, establishing the path by which DoD will serve as a model of sustainability for the nation.

Sustainability and the DoD Mission

- The Department's vision of sustainability is to maintain the ability to operate into the future without decline—either in the mission or in the natural and manufactured systems that support it.
- DoD embraces sustainability as a means of improving mission accomplishment.
 - For example, DoD's military's heavy reliance on fossil fuels creates significant risks and costs at a tactical, as well as a strategic level.
 - Costs can be measured in lost dollars, in reduced mission effectiveness, and in U.S. soldiers' lives.
 - Freeing warfighters from the tether of fuel will significantly improve DoD's mission effectiveness, as will reducing installations' dependence on costly fossil fuels and a potentially fragile power grid.
- Sustainability is not an individual Departmental program; rather, it is an organizing paradigm that applies to all DoD mission and program areas.
- The 2010 DoD Quadrennial Defense Review highlighted for the first time the importance to the Department of a strategic approach to climate change and energy.

A Plan for Continuously Improving Sustainability

The first DoD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, spanning 2010 through 2020, was developed to comply with the requirements of Executive Order 13514 and beyond. Comprehensive yet streamlined and strategic, the Plan embraces a wide range of sustainability factors. Among the issues addressed are:

- greenhouse gas emissions
- solid waste management
- energy efficiency
- the use of landfill gas
- renewable energy
- toxic and hazardous materials
- non-tactical vehicle fleets
- high performance sustainable buildings
- water efficiency and reclaimed water
- employee business travel and commuting

The Department envisions that the primary path to reaching its sustainability goals will be to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels through energy efficiency and renewable energy.

At the heart of the Plan is a set of eight goals supported by 21 performance-based sub-goals. Each sub-goal is defined by a quantitative performance metric that enables the Department to monitor and report its progress towards sustainability, and facilitate continuous improvement in its performance.

Although much remains to be done, the Department is committed to making bold changes. Successful implementation of the Sustainability Plan will help DoD continue its culture of excellence in environmental and fiscal stewardship and improve national security, both home and abroad.

